

QA-567

Wading Place Lodge

Grasonville vicinity, Queen Anne's County

Constructed ca. 1928

Privately owned

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Wading Place Lodge is a 1-story, 5-bay, wood-frame hunting/fishing lodge that was constructed ca. 1928. It has a large main room with three small bedrooms lining the rear (east) wall and a pantry and small kitchen lining the south. It stands on the western shore of a peninsula that juts off of Piney Neck into Prospect Bay south of Grasonville in Queen Anne's County. The lodge was constructed on a 300-acre tract of marsh and farmland. The tract remains intact and is now a wildlife preserve.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wading Place Lodge represents the modest end of the spectrum of the lodges and vacation houses that proliferated on the Eastern Shore during the 1920s and 1930s. The lodge was constructed ca. 1928 by restaurateurs Charles and Bessie Wass of Baltimore County, physician Frank Eldred of Baltimore County, and shipbuilder Arthur Farmer of Talbot County. The simple design and minimal amenities of the lodge indicate rustic lifestyle associated with it.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-567

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Wading Place Lodge (preferred)
other Bluff Point, Horsehead Farm, Eldred-Farmer-Wass Lodge

2. Location

street and number Perrys Corner Road not for publication
city, town Grasonville X vicinity
county Queen Anne's

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Wildfowl Trust of North American, Inc.
street and number P.O. Box 519 telephone (410) 827-6694
city, town Grasonville state MD zip code 21638

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County Circuit Court liber SM 594, folio 734; liber SM 617, folio 108
city, town Centreville tax map 65 tax parcel 12 tax ID number 05-001196, 05-046408

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	0 structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	0 objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		X vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

Inventory No. QA-567

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Wading Place Lodge stands on a peninsula that juts off of Piney Neck into Prospect Bay south of Grasonville in Queen Anne's County. The peninsula was historically a 300-acre tract of marsh and farmland. The tract remains intact and is now a wildlife preserve owned by the Wildfowl Trust of North American, Inc. The Wildfowl Trust has a small complex of buildings in the center of the peninsula. The lodge stands on the west shore of the peninsula and is bounded on the west by Prospect Bay, on the north by marsh, on the east by a pond, and on the south by woodlands. The lodge is approached by an oyster shell drive lined with low hedges. A recent observation pier extends into Prospect Bay adjacent to the lodge.

Wading Place Lodge is a 1-story, 5-bay, wood-frame building that was constructed ca. 1928. It rests on a pier foundation of handmade rock-faced concrete block and is sheathed in wood weatherboard with cornerboards. The gable roof is covered in asphalt shingle and has a boxed cornice with returns. There is an off-center exterior brick chimney in the south gable end. The main entry is in the off-center middle bay of the front (west) elevation. The 4-panel door has a flat surround and recent wood steps. On the north gable end is a secondary entry consisting of a half-glass door with a flat surround and recent wood steps. The 6/6 wood windows have flat surrounds. On the interior is a large main room with an infilled brick fireplace at its north end. The end wall is paneled in pine. Three small bedrooms line the rear (east) wall, and a pantry and small kitchen line the south. Interior finishes consists of tongue-and-groove floors, walls and ceilings covered in drywall, flat moldings, and paneled doors with rim locks. Pieces of drywall have fallen away from the ceiling to reveal beadboard.

8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-567

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates ca. 1928 (construction) **Architect/Builder** unknown

Construction dates ca. 1928

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wading Place Lodge represents the modest end of the spectrum of the lodges and vacation houses that proliferated on the Eastern Shore during the 1920s and 1930s. The lodge was constructed ca. 1928 by restaurateurs Charles and Bessie Wass of Baltimore County, physician Frank Eldred of Baltimore County, and shipbuilder Arthur Farmer of Talbot County. The simple design and minimal amenities of the lodge indicate rustic lifestyle associated with it.

RESOURCE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

Wading Place Lodge was constructed ca. 1928 by the Wass, Eldred, and Farmer families. Charles Wass was a restaurateur in Baltimore County, Frank Eldred was a physician in Sparrows Point, Baltimore County, and Arthur Farmer was an English-born contractor in a shipyard in St. Michaels, Talbot County.¹ The lodge was constructed on a 300-acre tract had previously been marsh and farmland. The tract remains intact. Julia A. Bissell of Greenville, Delaware owned the property from 1955-1974. She then transferred it to Delaware Wild Lands as a gift. The property has been a wildlife refuge since that time and is currently owned by the Wildfowl Trust of North American, Inc.

Wading Place Lodge represents the modest end of the spectrum of the lodges and vacation houses that proliferated on the Eastern Shore during the 1920s and 1930s. Recreation in the forms of hunting, fishing, and boating boomed on the Eastern Shore during this time. City dwellers from Baltimore to New York acquired properties ranging from 1- and 2-room fishing shacks and hunting lodges to elegant estates. This resulted in a shift in land use from agriculture to recreation. As a lodge, Wading Place Lodge was uniquely suited to its original owners with three bedrooms for the three couples and a large common room. The focus on the common room indicates the social nature of their gatherings, and the small kitchen and absence of bathroom facilities indicate simple lifestyle they expected there.

¹ United States Federal Census Manuscripts for 1920 and 1930.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. QA-567

Queen Anne's County Circuit Court. Land Records. ww2.mdlandrec.net

United States Federal Census Manuscripts for 1920 and 1930. www.ancestry.com

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property approximately 0.25 acre

Acreage of historical setting approximately 300 acres

Quadrangle name Queenstown

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Because Wading Place Lodge stands on an isolated part of its 300 acre tract, its boundary only encompasses the land immediately around it. Wading Place Lodge is bounded on the north and west by the edges of fast land, on the south by the end of the oyster shell drive leading to the lodge, and on the east by the edge of Lake Knapp. The boundary includes approximately 0.25 acres.

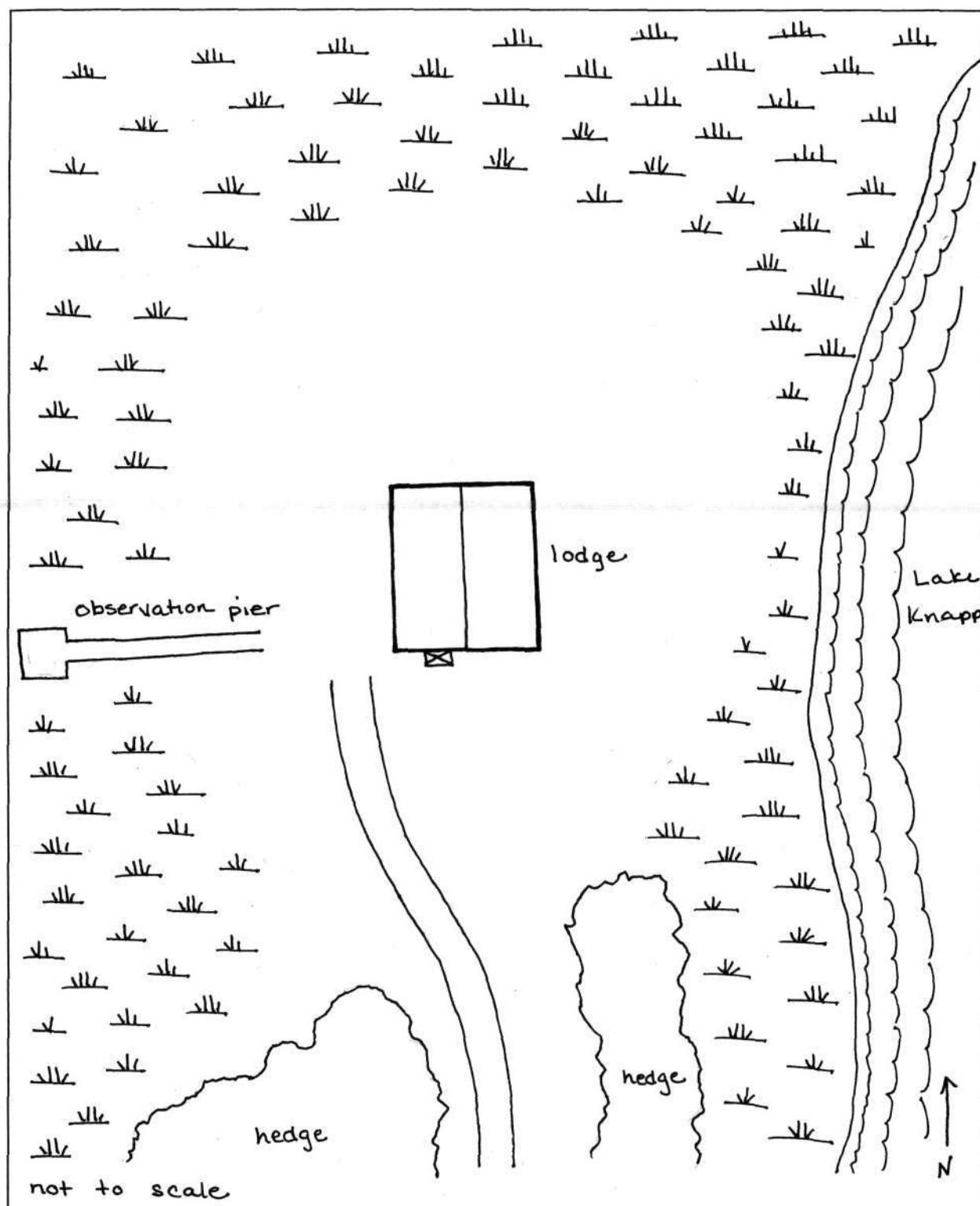
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Julie Darsie		
organization	Betty Bird & Associates LLC	date	October 2005
street & number	2607 24 th Street, NW, Suite 3	telephone	(202) 588-9033
city or town	Washington, District of Columbia	state	N/A

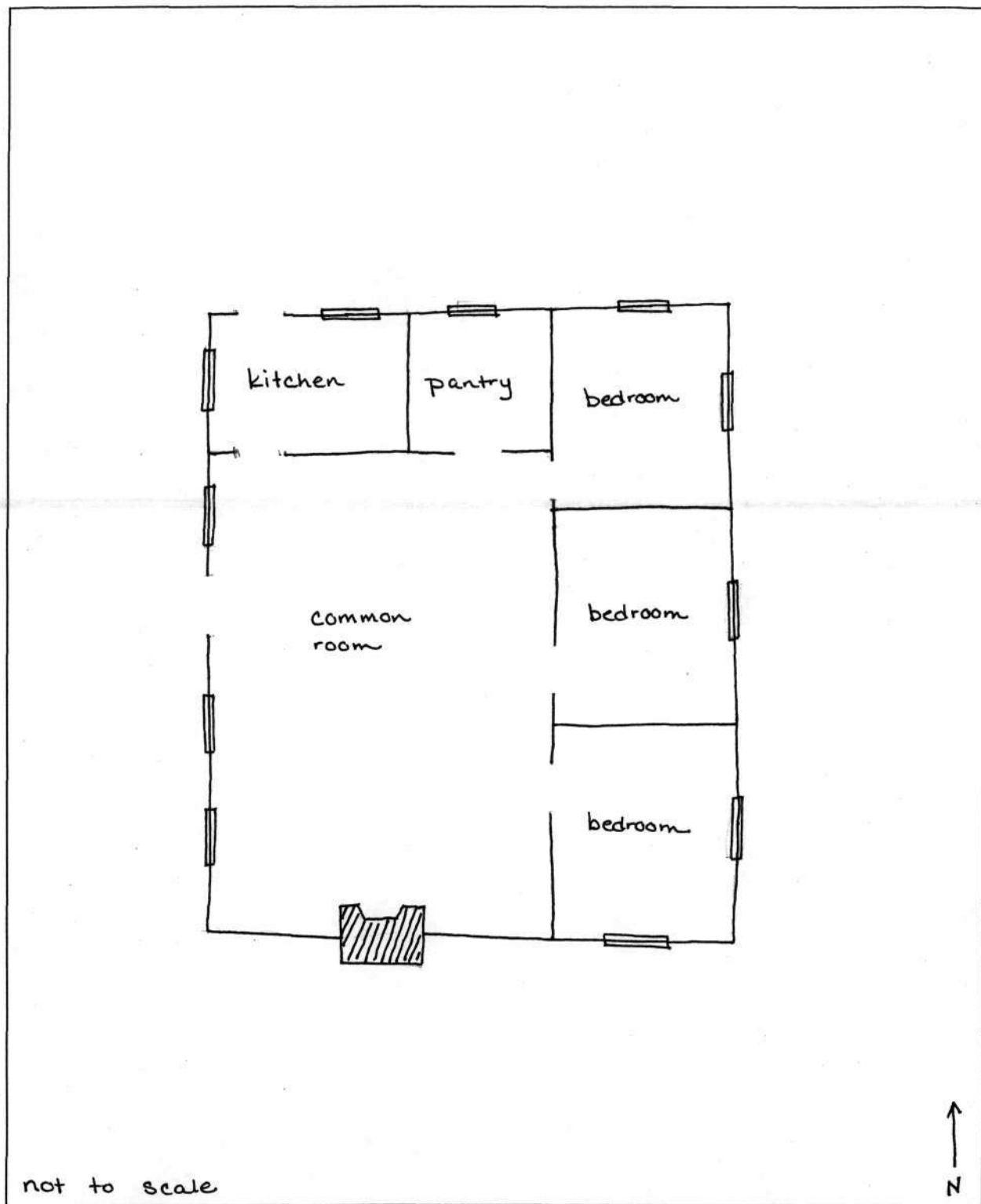
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



Site Plan
QA-567
Wading Place
Grasonville vicinity, Queen Anne's County, Maryland

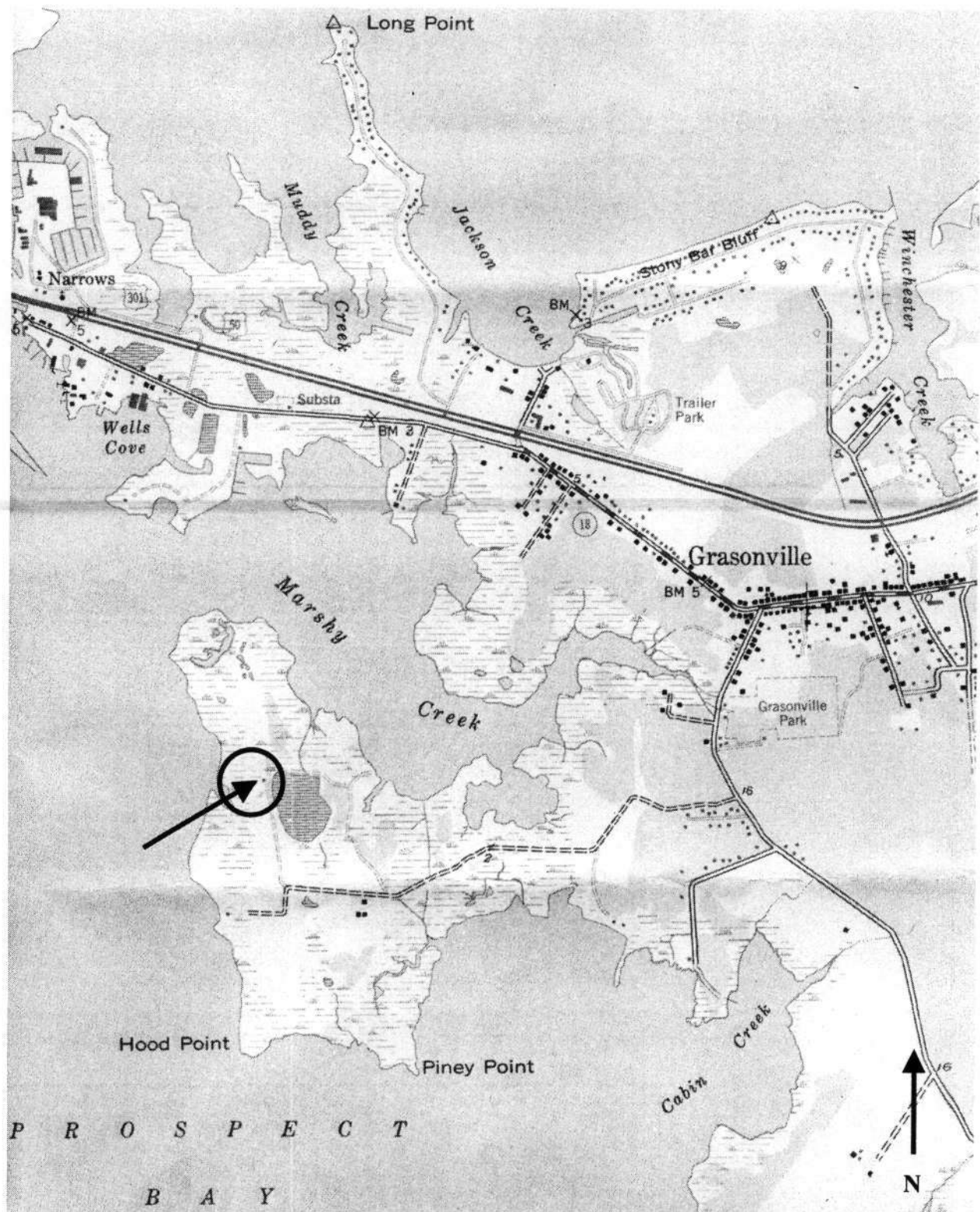


Floor Plan

QA-567

Wading Place

Grasonville vicinity, Queen Anne's County, Maryland



QA-567

Wading Place Lodge

Grasonville vicinity, Queen Anne's County

Queenstown, Maryland Quadrangle (1:24,000)



QA-567

Wading Place Lodge

Queen Annes County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

9/05

MD SHPO

West (front) elevation

1 of 5

6410 11 101 11111111 10+ 11 1604 >



QA-567

Wading Place Lodge

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bud + Associates

9105

MLD SHPO

South elevation

2 of 5

0169 - NORTH 10+ 11 9605 >



QA-567

Wading Place Lodge

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

9/05

MD SHPO

East elevation. Observation pier is visible left of lodge.

3 of 5

0169 —NNNN 10+ 11 960X >



QA-567

Wading Place Lodge

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

White Dorsie for Betty Bird & Associates

4/65

MD SHPO

North elevation

4 of 5

0169 11 100 111111 11 2606 2



QA-567

Wading Place Lodge

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

9/25

OLD SHPO

Main Room interior, view to SE. Doors to two bedrooms
in center. Also note paneled end wall, bricked-in
fireplace, and stovepipe hole over fireplace.

5 of 5

0119 - 111111 201 11 860 >